

Town of Tiverton



Economic Development Commission

343 Highland Road, Tiverton Rhode Island 02878

MEETING MINUTES

ORGANIZATION: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

DATE AND TIME: JUNE 13, 2013 @ 6:00PM

LOCATION: TIVERTON COMMUNITY CENTER
346 JUDSON STREET
TIVERTON, RI 02878

Chairman Scott Humphrey called the regular meeting of the Tiverton Economic Development Commission to order at 6:00 P.M. Other members present were: Vice Chairman Thomas Humphrey, Jonathan Cottrell, Leonard Schmidt and Susan Gill.

Item # 1 Approval of minutes meeting of May 2013

Mr. Schmidt made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. T. Humphrey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Gill, Mr. S. Humphrey, Mr. T. Humphrey, Mr. Cottrell and Mr. Schmidt voted in favor of the motion.

Item # 2 Property Tax insert;

- Invoices were received by property owners June 11, 2013
- The supporting document created by Member Schmidt has been uploaded to www.TivertonEDC.org

The EDC members discussed the importance of analytics to track website hits generated through the insert. The Chairman noted that there were 30 unique visitors to the site in the month of June, which created a baseline. He added that the site the ability to count new and unique visitors. Discussion ensued regarding the visibility of the EDC and its level of activity.

Item #3 *From May 2013: Discuss the Four Corners Merchant Group's request to add their promotional video onto the TEDC's website.*

Ms. Gill stated that she had contacted Discover Newport regarding its policy for posting videos. Discover Newport links through YouTube and does not host content directly. Ms. Gill stated that this was a new feature for Discover Newport, and that they were limiting the video length to one or two minutes. The EDC members decided to hold a workshop to discuss this topic further.

Item #4 Town meetings update:

Harbor Commission / Susan Gill: Ms. Gill stated that the Harbor Commission had discussed its concerns regarding the width and configuration of the new boat ramp on Riverside Drive, and the fact that the Sakonnet Bridge drains empty storm water onto the ramp. She added that a Harbor Master had been hired.

Recreation Commission / Susan Gill: Ms. Gill stated that Recreation was working on plans for a new soccer field complex, and had received grant money from RIDEM (RI Department of Environmental Management). The obstacle course at Bulgarmarsh Park had not been approved, and the Commission was working to revise the plan. The Recreation Coordinator, Therese Burke, had resigned.

Planning Board & Town Council / Len Schmidt: Mr. Schmidt stated that he was not present at the Planning Board meeting, and he briefly recapped the recent Town Council meetings.

Wastewater Management / Jon Cottrell: Mr. Cottrell stated that the Wastewater Management Commission was working to hire a firm to organize a sewer district or districts, and to identify areas to be serviced by public sewers.

Zoning Board / Thomas Humphrey: Mr. T. Humphrey stated that there was no meeting held this month.

Four Corners Merchant Group / Scott Humphrey & Susan Gill: Ms. Gill noted that there was the potential for the Four Corners Group to hold events to sponsor recreation programs. Discussion ensued regarding the potential for collaboration.

Open Space / Susan Gill: Ms. Gill stated that there had been discussion regarding the use of open space property on High Hill Road, and regarding the progress on Highland Woods, an 11 acre parcel purchased by Open Space.

Item #5 Web-site; changes and improvements have been made to site to improve functionality as well as member's Bio.

The changes to the website were discussed. Some EDC member headshots were missing.

Item #6 *From May 2013: Independence Day or summer celebration activities to engage the business community in Tiverton – Scott Humphrey*

It was noted that a "Celebrate Tiverton" event was in the works for July 2013. Mr. Humphrey noted that he would like to look into the potential for fireworks at a future event, possibly sponsored by Tiverton and Portsmouth businesses.

**Item #7 Business Park Update – Len Schmidt
Souza Road Update – Len Schmidt**

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Business Park subdivision plans had been recorded, making the lots available for marketing. Mr. Schmidt also gave an update on the Souza Road / Tiverton Crossings plan, noting that a site walk was held. Ms. Michaud agreed to inform the EDC of upcoming meeting dates.

**Item #8 Tiverton Business Association: formation of a group to organize Tiverton businesses.
Scott Humphrey**

The Chairman stated that he had received a complete list of Tiverton businesses from the Newport County Chamber of Commerce, which could be used to start a database. He stated that he did not have email contact information, and that there were 525 entities. He asked the EDC members if they thought that assisting in the formation of a business association would step outside of the scope of the EDC mission. The Chairman noted that a lot of work would be needed, and that he would like to reach out to Portsmouth to see how they had handled the formation of the Portsmouth Business Association. Chee Laureanno spoke from the audience, suggesting that the EDC write a letter to businesses to see if anyone steps up to take a lead role. Mr. Schmidt suggested holding a gathering to bring people together. Ms. Gill suggested that this could be part of an autumn meeting. Ms. Gill, Mr. Cottrell and Mr. T. Humphrey all agreed that this would fall outside of the EDC mission, but that the EDC could facilitate.

Item #9 Budget FY 2012-2013

The Chairman noted that the end of the fiscal year was approaching (June 30) and he needed the bill for the rack cards ASAP. A discussion ensued regarding the Regional Economic Development group that was being organized by the Newport County Chamber of Commerce, and the benefits of belonging to such an organization. Grant funds would make up the bulk of the funding, with the communities providing matching funds to realize the most immediate attention. The Chairman made a motion to commit \$2,000 of EDC funds to the project, with the permission of Town Administrator James Goncalo. Mr. Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Gill, Mr. S. Humphrey, Mr. T. Humphrey, Mr. Cottrell and Mr. Schmidt voted in favor of the motion.

Item #10 Newport Chamber Announcements:

- **Resolution passed: supporting Senate Bill 989 – Sakonnet River Bridge**
- **Resolution passed; supporting House Bill 6210 – Sakonnet River Bridge**
- **“Think Local” Campaign**
- **Portsmouth appeals the Court’s decision to uphold tolling on the Sakonnet River Bridge.**

Mr. Humphrey reviewed the above actions and programs.

Item #11 New Business and Economic Development Items and Updates of Interest – All

- Mr. Cottrell briefly discussed the funding possibilities for a sewer district, including USDA grants.
- Mr. T. Humphrey briefly reviewed the toll issue, and the activities occurring within the State legislature.
- Ms. Laureanno handed out photographs of an Industrial Park in Wrentham, which was in an area with a lot of ledge. She asked if gaming could be a viable use for the Tiverton Park?

Item #12 Next Meeting Schedule, Agenda and Adjournment

The next meeting would be held on June 13, 2013. Mr. T. Humphrey made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Cottrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Gill, Mr. Cottrell Mr. T. Humphrey, Mr. S. Humphrey and Mr. Schmidt voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Submitted by: Kate Michaud Approval Date: August 8, 2013